(a) whether it is a fact that there has been pilferage of duty free stock worth Rs. 15 crores per annum, on board of Air India aircrafts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Air-India has a Vigilance Branches functioning for investigating in-house irregularities;

(c) whether the Vigilance Branch has identified the modalities of such pilferages, if so, the number of cases detected by the Vigilance Branch; and

(d) whether Air-India has taken any action against the staff who were involved in pilferage activities. Department-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) While some cases of pilferage of cabin stores items have been reported, it is not possible to quantify the loss on this account.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As part of preventive Vigilance and to check possible pilferage of cabin stores items, necessary security check of cabin crew was agreed to during the recent negotiations between the Managment and the cabin crew Association.

(d) Some cabin crew have been dismissed from service for pilferage of crystal glasses, whisky etc.

Agreement between Air India and Cabin crew

3259. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister o CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agreement between management of Air India and Cabin crew has been signed in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agreement would now increase the productivity as well as the airline's services,

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the passengers will not be subjected to any inconvenience in future with the signing of this agreement; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Agreement entered into between the Air India management and the cabin crew association in March, 1995 aims at improvement in productivity and efficiency of cabin crew and provision of better service the passengers. Several changes in the pattern of crew deployment security checks and weight checks, positioning of stand by cabin crew and abolition of separate job designations for Assistant flight pursers and Air Hostesses etc. have been agreed to. However, it is not possible to quantify the benefits of the new arrangements at this stage.

(e) and (f) The objective of this agreement is to provide better service to the passengers.

Increase in room tariff by Hotels in Bombay and Delhi

3260. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that room tariff is fixed by the Hotel owners as per the guidelines of the Department of Tourism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that many Hotels in Bombay and Delhi have increased room tariff recently without consulting the Central Government; and